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VIBRATIONAL SPECTRUM AND STRUCTURE OF  
1,2-DIMETHYL-1,2-DISILA-CLOSO-DODECABORANE

by

S.S. Bukalov, L.A. Leites, Lars Wesemann, Dietmar Seyferth

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## Vibrational Spectrum and Structure of 1,2-Dimethyl-1,2-disila-*closo*-dodecaborane

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### ABSTRACT

The IR spectrum (thin film) of 1,2-dimethyl-1,2-disila-*closo*-dodecaborane DMSB, in the region 200-3600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and its Raman spectrum (solid sample) in the region 5 - 3600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are reported. It is concluded that the molecular bonding in DMSB is weaker than that in *o*-carborane. A Raman band at 399  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is tentatively assigned to the Si-Si bond.

Recently, 1,2-dimethyl-1,2-disila-*closo*-dodecaborane (or briefly dimethyl-*o*-silaborane), shown in Fig. 1, the first silicon analog of *o*-carborane, was synthesized and studied by X-ray and NMR methods.<sup>1</sup> We report and discuss here the vibrational spectrum of this compound. Its Raman spectrum in the region 5 - 3600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was obtained for the solid sample at different temperatures; polarization measurements of Raman lines were carried out for its saturated solution in benzene. The IR spectrum of a thin film sublimed onto a cold target of the cryostat was measured in the region 200 - 3600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The results obtained are presented in Fig. 2 and Table 1.

It is of interest to compare the spectrum of dimethyl-*o*-silaborane (DMSB) with those of other icosahedral species: the dodecaborate anion,  $\text{B}_{12}\text{H}_{12}^{2-}$ ,<sup>2</sup> and *o*-carborane,  $\text{C}_2\text{B}_{10}\text{H}_{12}$ .<sup>3,4</sup>

The DMSB molecule belongs to the  $C_{2v}$  symmetry point group. The 66 normal vibrations of the  $B_{10}H_{10}(SiC)_2$  moiety are distributed among the symmetry species as follows:

$$\Gamma = 21 A_1 + 13 A_2 + 16 B_1 + 16 B_2.$$

All these species should be active in the Raman and all but  $A_2$  in the IR.

In fact, as is seen from Fig. 2, almost all Raman lines have their IR counterparts. This is in contrast to *o*-carborane, which belongs formally to the same point group  $C_{2v}$  and has the same selection rules, but whose spectrum really obeys the higher effective symmetry of an averaged icosahedron.

The most prominent features of the vibrational spectra of all *closo*-boranes are the  $\nu(BH)$  multiplet in the region  $2400 - 2600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the polyhedron "breathing" mode near  $750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In the case of DMSB the  $\nu(BH)$  multiplet is centered near  $2550 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the "breathing" mode at  $715 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , both features being markedly shifted to lower frequencies compared to *o*-carborane. These modes being well localized, this shift indicates a weakening of molecular bonding in DMSB as compared to that in *o*-carborane. However, the  $\nu(BH)$  band of DMSB is shifted to higher frequencies if compared to the average  $\nu(BH)$  frequency  $2480 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  of the  $B_{12}H_{12}^{2-}$  anion.

The most striking difference between the spectrum of DMSB and those of  $B_{12}H_{12}^{2-}$  and *o*- $C_2B_{10}H_{12}$  is the presence in the former of low-frequency modes, equally intense in the Raman and IR spectra. The most intense in the Raman spectrum is the strongly polarized narrow line at  $399 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Its frequency coincides with that of the  $\nu(Si-Si)$  mode of hexamethyldisilane.<sup>5</sup> Thus it seems reasonable to assign this line to the Si-Si stretching mode. However, this assignment is tentative and needs to be proved by a normal

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coordinate analysis, because a heavily mixed origin of this mode cannot be excluded.

It is evident that all the rest of the low-frequency bands of DMSB are associated with participation of the silicon atoms in the cage motions, because the spectra of the rigid  $B_{12}H_{12}^{2-}$  and  $C_2B_{10}H_{12}$  polyhedra exhibit no bands with frequencies lower than  $450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

The polarized Raman line at  $640\text{ cm}^{-1}$  seems to correspond to the symmetrical stretch of the exo-polyhedral Si-C bonds; its frequency lies in the usual range and is close to that of the Si-C bonds in  $(CH_3)_3SiCl$ .<sup>6</sup> The frequencies of the internal vibrations of the methyl groups attached to the silicon atoms, i.e., 1260, 1395, 2913 and  $2993\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , also are much the same as those in the spectra of the methylchlorosilanes, in particular,  $CH_3SiCl_3$ ,<sup>6</sup> which is in accord with the well-known electron-deficient nature of the *closo*-borane cage.

The DMSB molecule obviously is "globular", in the sense of Timmermans.<sup>7</sup> However, unlike icosahedral carboranes,<sup>4,8</sup> this substance does not form a plastic phase at room temperature, which is evident from the presence of the lattice modes in the low-frequency region of its Raman spectrum (Fig. 2).<sup>9</sup> Heating of the substance to  $70^\circ\text{C}$  revealed no phase interruption to a plastic phase in this temperature interval.

## EXPERIMENTAL

DMSB was synthesized according to ref. 1. The sample was thoroughly purified by several successive sublimations *in vacuo* just before the spectra were taken. *The substance is not as stable to atmosphere moisture and oxygen as stated in ref. 1.* After the thin film of DMSB obtained by sublimation *in vacuo* on a cold target of the cryostat was exposed to the atmosphere, its IR spectrum soon acquired some "extra" bands, namely  $\sim 3200$

$\text{cm}^{-1}$  [ $\nu(\text{B}-\text{OH})$ ],  $\sim 1200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  [ $\delta(\text{B}-\text{OH})$ ] and  $\sim 1100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  [ $\nu(\text{SiOSi})$ ], which indicated partial oxidation of the material. The intensity of the "extra" bands slowly increased with time (see Fig. 3).

Raman spectra were obtained using a Ramanov HG-2S spectrometer equipped with an ILA-2 argon ion laser, operating at  $5145 \text{ \AA}$  as the exciting source. The exciting power was less than 100 mW. IR spectra were measured with a M-80 Karl Zeiss spectrophotometer and a Bruker IFS-113v Fourier transform spectrometer.

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## CAPTIONS

Fig. 1 1,2-dimethyl-1,2-disila-*closo*-dodecaborane(12).

Fig. 2 Vibrational spectrum of solid DMSB.

Fig. 3 Process of oxidation of DMSB in air as shown by its IR spectrum.

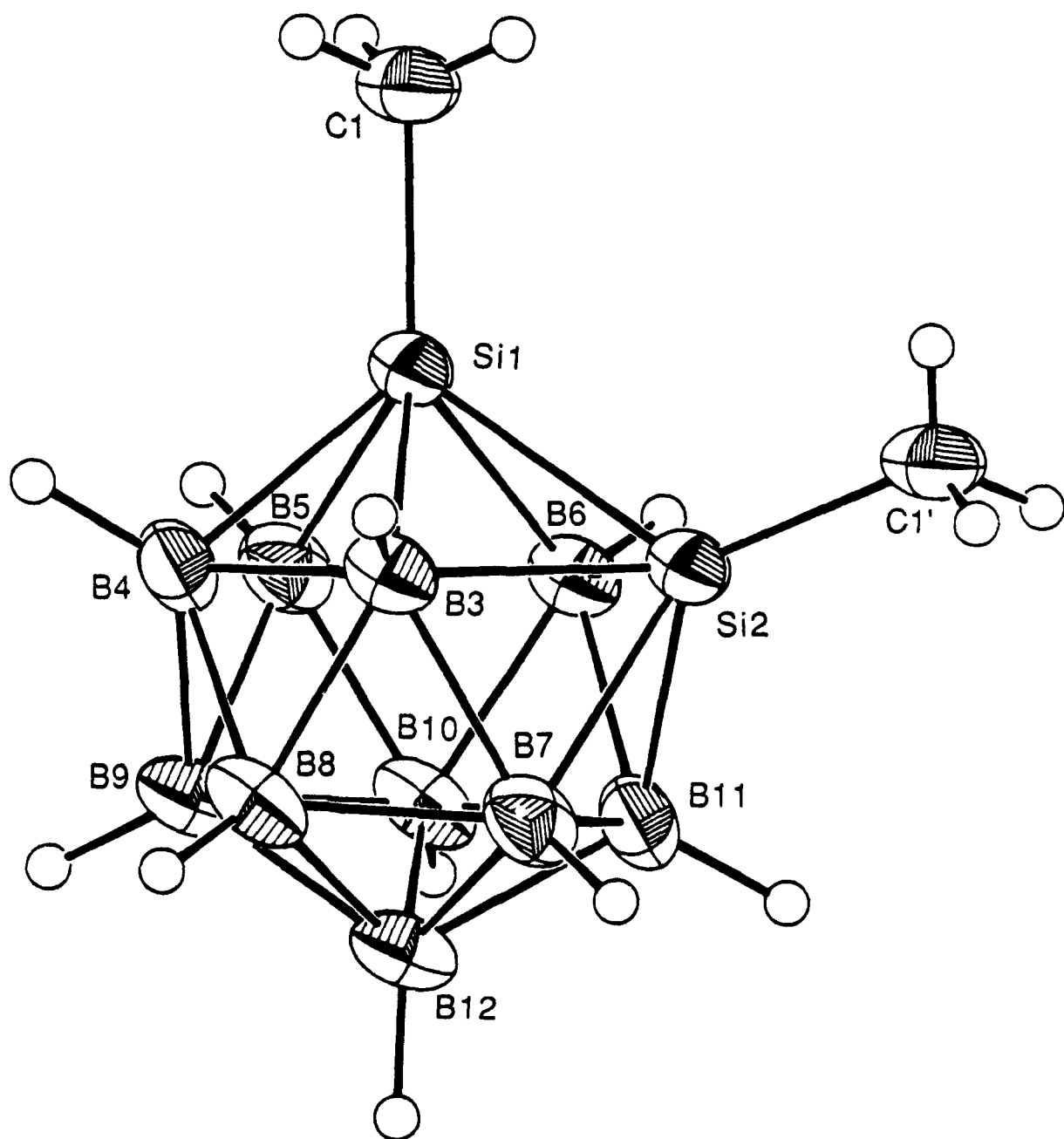
1. IR spectrum of a DMSB thin film just after sublimation *in vacuo* (no  $\nu_{\text{B-OH}}$  bond at  $\sim 3200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).
2. IR spectrum of the same sample after 5 hours of exposure to air.
3. The same on the next day.
4. The same after a week.

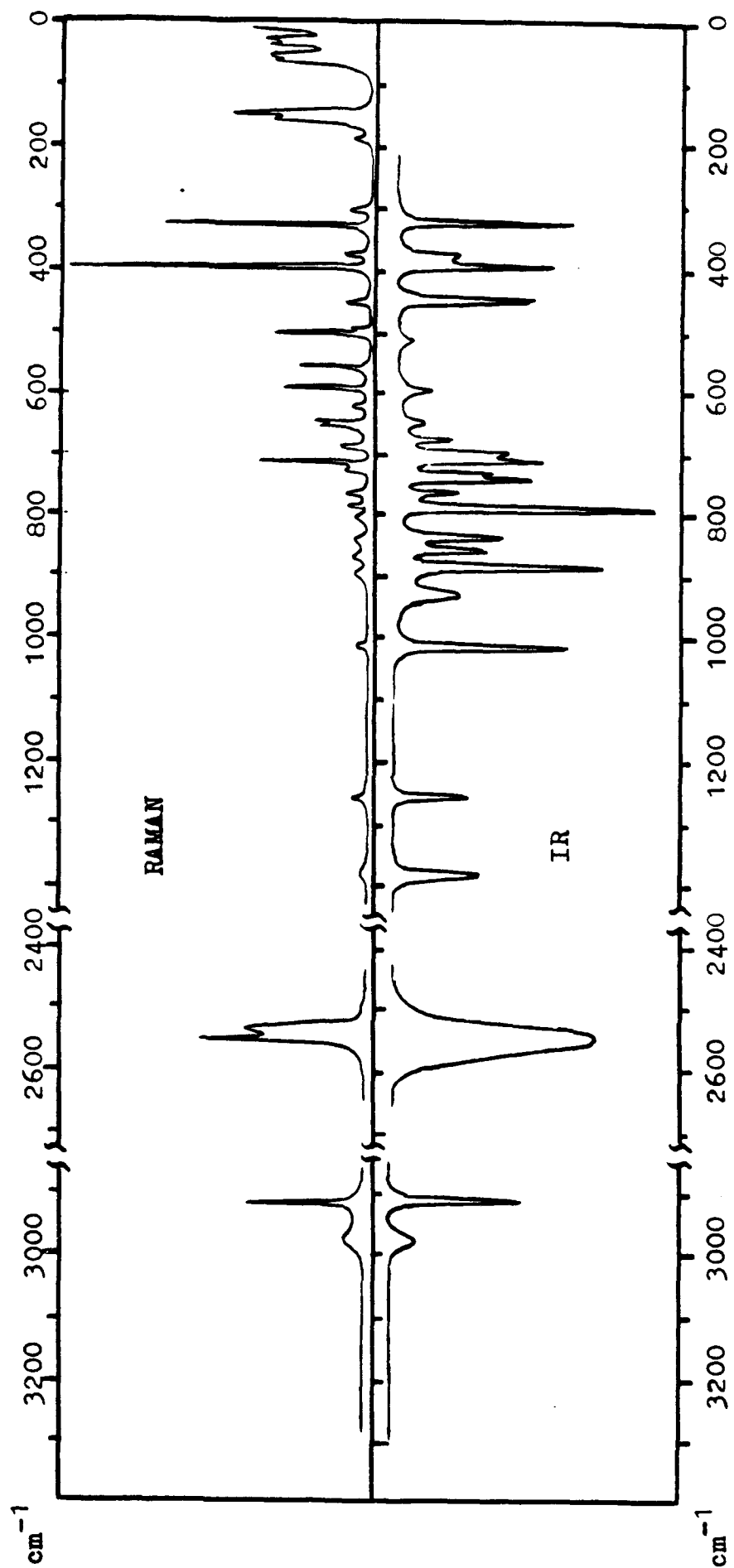
Table. Vibrational spectrum of  $B_{10}H_{10}(SiMe)_2$ 

Raman			IR
Solid sample.	Solution in benzene		Vacuum sublimation on a cold target
$\Delta\nu, cm^{-1}$	$\Delta\nu, cm^{-1}$	$\rho$	$\nu, cm^{-1}$
152 m.			
186 sh.			
306 w.			304 w.
329 s.	326	0.80	328 s.
379 vw.			379 sh.
400 vs.	399	0.28	397 s.
449 w.			448 s.
503 m.	504	0.12	503 w.
550 m.	552	0.62	
587 m.			578 w.
610 w.			610 vw.
		p.	
645 m.			659 w.
686 w.			689 w.
716 s.	713	0.03	718 m.
758 w.			752 sh.
			759 m.
773 w.			775 w.
792 w.			793 vs.



841 w			848 m.	
860 w.			862 w.	
895 w.			886 s.	
920 w.			916	
			957 w.	
1010 w.			1010 vs.	
1260 w.			1246 w.	
1392 w.			1395 m.	
2547 s.	2549	0.16	2548 vs.	
2556 vs.				
2913 m.			2908 s.	
2994 wbr.			2991 wbr.	





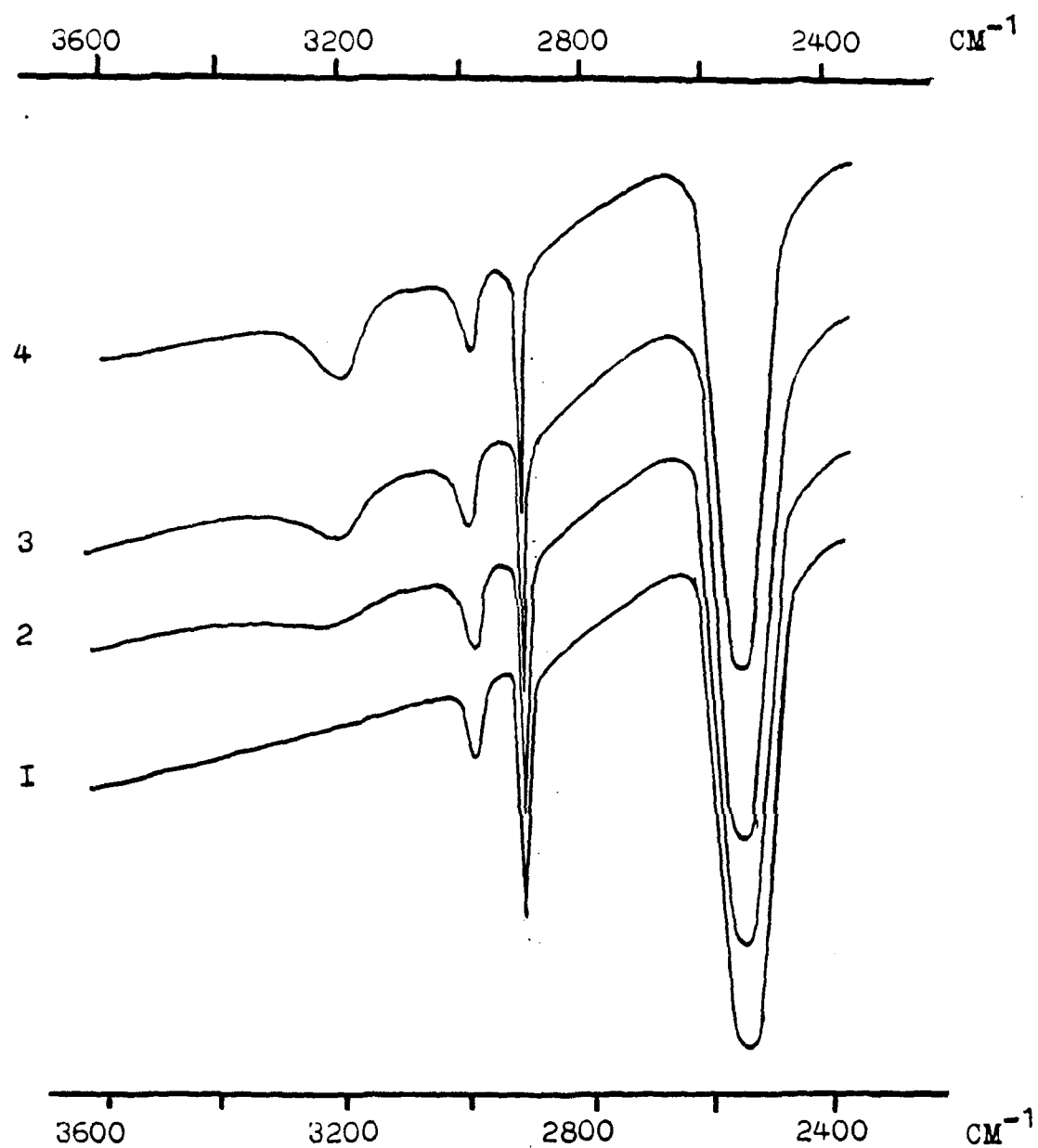


Fig. 3